Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An object management method for performing access control for a stored object, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object;

setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition;

setting an identifier for identifying the object in association with the retrieval condition; and

performing access control for an object matching the retrieval condition and the identifier on the basis of the access right.

2. (Currently Amended) The object management method according to claim 1, wherein the step of performing access control further-comprising comprises the steps of:

performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the object meets the retrieval condition; and

controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition.

3. (Currently Amended) The object management method according to claim 1, wherein the step of performing access control further-comprising comprises the steps of:

setting an identifier for identifying each object in association with the retrieval condition;

performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the identifier of the object has been set in association with the retrieval condition; and

controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition if a result of the check indicates that the identifier of the access-requested object has been set in association with the retrieval condition.

4.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 3, wherein the association between the retrieval condition and the identifier is changed according to need when addition, modification, or deletion of the object identified by the identifier is made.

5.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of OR of the matched retrieval conditions.

6.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of AND of the matched retrieval conditions.

7.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 1, wherein the object is stored with attribute data, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data.

8.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 1, wherein the object is stored with attribute data and a method for referring to an entity of the object, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data and the entity of the object referred to by the method.

9.   (Original) The object management method according to claim 1, wherein the access right is a specification about a user and an access type allowed to access the object.

10.   (Currently Amended) An object management system performing access control for an object stored in object storing means, the system comprising:
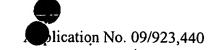
access control means for managing both a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, an identifier set in association with the retrieval condition, and an access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition, thereby controlling access to the object; and

retrieval means for retrieving an object stored in the object storing means on the basis of the retrieval condition,

wherein the access control means performs access control for an object matching the retrieval condition and the identifier on the basis of a retrieval result by the retrieval means.

11.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the retrieval means performs a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the object matches the retrieval condition, and the access control means controls access to the access-requested object based on the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition if a retrieval result by the retrieval means indicates that the access-requested object matches the retrieval condition.

12.   (Currently Amended) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the access control means manages an identifier for identifying each object in association with the retrieval condition, and controls, when a request for access to an object occurs and if the identifier of the object has been set in association with the retrieval condition, access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition.

13.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 12, wherein the retrieval means retrieves an object stored in the object storing means when addition,

modification, or deletion of the object is made, and the access control means changes the association between the retrieval condition and the identifier in accordance with a retrieval result by the retrieval means.

14.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the access control means performs access control, if an access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of OR of the matched retrieval conditions.

15.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the access control means performs access control, if an access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of AND of the matched retrieval conditions.

16.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the object storing means stores an object with attribute data of the object, and the retrieval means retrieves the object on the basis of the attribute data.

17.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the object storing means stores an object with attribute data and a method for referring to an entity of the object, and the retrieval means retrieves the object on the basis of the attribute data and the entity of the object referred to by the method.

18.   (Original) The object management system according to claim 10, wherein the access control means manages the access right as a specification of a user and an access type allowed to access the object.